

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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To: The WIC Futures Study Group Large Caucus Members

From: State WIC office

This letter is in response to the request shared at the January 31st, 2012 WIC Futures Study Group meeting.

A. Proof of Residency

The 2012 Montana WIC State Plan lists the following policies concerning residency documentation.

Policy Number: 5-23

II. Residency Documentation

Residency must be documented at initial certification and updated when the participant moves or transfers. Documentation of residency must be from a utility bill, monthly rent payment receipt, landlord statement, or mortgage statement (documentation connecting participant with current address). NOTE: Proof of residency must show the physical address where the applicant currently lives/resides.

Policy Number: 5-21

IV D. Should the participant truly have no current proof of identity, a signed copy of the Montana WIC Program Proof of Residency/Identity can be used for one month.

The Montana WIC Program also currently accepts 3rd party verification, for State Plan 2013, when no other proof of residency is available. Chapter 5 of the State Plan is being rewritten and when complete, a draft of the policy will be available for Local Agency staff review.

A copy of USDA guidance has been attached. The guidance details the required documentation required for residency and identification.

B. Redemption of Fruit & Vegetable Benefits

Due to the anticipated implementation of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) in 2013, the redemption policy for Fruit & Vegetable Benefits will not be changed at this time.

Redemption policies will be reviewed as a part of EBT planning and implementation.

C. Definition of Exclusive Breastfeeding

The Montana WIC Program will be changing language in the 2013 State Plan to Fully Breastfeeding, Substantially Breastfeeding and Partially Breastfeeding for the three levels of breastfeeding. The underlying definition of each will be consistent with the

corresponding USDA WIC definition. While other groups may have a different definition for “fully” or “exclusively” breastfeeding, Montana WIC will use the definitions which will allow it to compare itself to other WIC programs across the nation.

Breastfeeding (Fully) – 1) the woman is breastfeeding or expressing breast milk and the infant is receiving no formula from WIC; 2) the infant receives breast milk (provided by the woman), receives no formula from WIC and may be receiving age appropriate supplementary foods such as cereal, vegetables, fruits and meats.

Breastfeeding (Partially) – breastfeeding or expressing breast milk at least once per day and receiving about half or more of the maximum formula allowance from WIC.

Breastfeeding (Substantially) – breastfeeding or expressing breast milk at least once per day and receiving less than half of the maximum formula allowance from WIC.